LIBRARY
LIBRARY

HIGHWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector for the Year, 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Highworth Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In presenting my report on the health of the District in 1943 it is satisfactory to say that the general health has been good, in spite of the War conditions.

Diphtheria continues to show the great benefit of immunization, as the four cases occurred in persons not so treated.

Scabies has been the chief cause of anxiety, but shows a decrease in December.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT P. BEATTY.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b29428841

HIGHWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR, 1943.

Section A - Statistics and Social Conditions.

Rateable Value ... ... £98,923.

Sum represented by a penny rate £ 400: 14: 0

There have been no alterations in the Social Conditions during 1943.

Section B. - The Provision of Health Services for the Area has not been altered, with the one exception, viz:- the County Authorities have founded a Laboratory at the Swindon and District Isolation Hospital.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during 1943.

Details are given in the Table at the end, showing age, incidence and distribution in the several Parishes, as well as the number of admissions to Hospital.

CANCER. Surgical treatment is given at the Swindon Victoria Hospital and the Great Western Medical Fund Society's Hospital, in Swindon, and at St.Margaret's Hospital, Stratton St.Margaret.

A monthly clinic at the Victoria Hospital is held, to arrange for Radium and Deep X Ray Therapy, by a Specialist from Bristol General Hospital.

Deaths from Cancer were distributed in age groups as follows:-

Years.	
25 to 35	0
35 to 45	1
45 to 55	4
55 to 65	3
65 and upwards	12

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action has been necessary under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

TUBERCULOSIS. No action has been required under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or unde. Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY during 1943 are shown in the following table:-

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory		Non-respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...
5	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
15	2	2	...	1	...	...	...	...
25	1	3	1	...	2	1	...	...
35	3	3	...		1	1	...	...
45	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	...	...	...	...		...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Totals Totals.	6	10	5	3	3	2	0	0

TABLE SHEWING CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING 1943.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of cases notified.								Total cases notified in each Parish.															
	All ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards.	Bishopstone	Blunsdon St. Andrew.	Castle Eaton	Chisledon	Hannington	Highworth	Haydon Wick	Hinton Parva	Inglesham	Liddington	South Marston	Stanton Fitzwarren.	Stratton St. Margaret.	Wanborough	Wroughton	Total admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Diphtheria & Membranous Croup	4		1	1	2							1									1		2	4	0
Erysipelas	3				1		1	1													1		2	0	0
Enteric Fever	-																							-	0
Scarlet Fever	41		8	27	3	3						26				1					3	2	9	41	0
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.	1					1										1								0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	-																							-	0
Puerperal Pyrexia.	3				1	2															3			3	0
Pneumonia	27	1	3	0	1	12	5	5				5									7	5	10	5	4
Measles	165																							0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-																							0	0
Whooping Cough	34																							0	0

INFANT MORTALITY - 1924.

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under 1 year of age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 3 months	3 months & under 6 months	6 months & under 9 months	9 months & under 12 months	Total Deaths under one year.
All causes (Certified	10	0	0	1	11	2	3	3	3	22
All causes (Uncertified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fractured Skull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria and Croup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculous Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Intestinal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neoplasm	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Convulsions	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	3
Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gastritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Diarrhoea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hernia (Obstruction)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	3	-	-	1	4	2	1	-	-	7
Debility	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Icterus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Premature Birth	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Injury at Birth	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Atelectasis	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1

SANITARY STATISTICS.

TABLE OF NUISANCES RECORDED AND ABATED 1943.

Nature of Complaints	Defects brought forward from 1942	Complaints received and visited	Total	No. of complaints abated during 1943.	No. of cases not abated at end of year.
Choked drains	7	24	31	29	2
Defective drains	2	20	22	22	–
" sinks	1	1	2	2	–
" & dirty W.C. pans.	1	6	7	7	–
" flushing cisterns.	–	3	3	3	–
" eaves gutters.	2	5	7	6	1
" down pipes	–	–	–	–	–
" yard paving	–	2	2	2	–
" cesspits	–	3	3	3	–
" roofs	1	2	3	2	1
Overflowing cesspits	–	7	7	7	–
Offensive E.Cs.	–	4	4	4	–
" accummulations.	1	15	16	15	1
" keeping of animals.	–	7	7	7	–
Dirty rooms	–	10	10	10	–
Polluted ditches.	1	9	10	9	1
" wells	–	3	3	3	–
Overcrowding.	1	4	5	1	4
Verminous houses.	–	10	10	10	–
Miscellaneous.	–	10	10	10	–
Totals	17	145	162	152	10

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS, 1943.

House inspections	615
House disinfections	53
Infectious Disease	162
Houses fumigated	20
Nuisances	145
Pig-killing on producers premises	44
Bakehouses	16
Wells	10
Miscellaneous	98
Applicants for tenancies of Council houses	89
Rats & Mice (Destruction) Act	59
Dairies & Cowsheds	303

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

Public water supplies are provided by the District Council in the parishes of Castle Eaton, portion of Blunsdon St.Andrew, Chisledon, portion of Hannington, Highworth, Inglesham, Liddington, Wanborough and Wroughton. In addition water supplies are provided by the Swindon Corporation in the parishes of Haydon Wick and Stratton St.Margaret and by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in the parish of Bishopstone. All the public water supplies are constant.

Over 92% of the houses supplied from public water supplies are supplied from the works directly to the houses and the remaining 8% by means of standpipe.

During the year a scheme for augmenting the water supply at Highworth was completed and put into operation.

Schemes for providing a public water supply in the parish of Stanton Fitzwarren and an extension of the water mains to Blunsdon Hill,Blunsdon St.Andrew, have received approval for immediate carrying out.

A shortage of water was suffered in South Marston and a portion of Blunsdon St,Andrew, which are supplied from private wells.

Periodical samples from public and private water supplies have been taken for bacteriological examination and in the case of public water the purity has been satisfactory.

The character of the water in the whole of the area is hard and accordingly not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Three notices have been served during the year to abate pollution of streams, these have been complied with.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The various sewage works have been carried out without complaint during the year.

SCAVENGING.

Refuse collection is carried out in the whole of the parishes in the District by the Council's own lorries and workmen. The method of disposal is by refuse tip. This is situate at Stratton St.Margaret.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT.

During the year 59 premises have been freed from rats by the action of the Council's officials.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

One notice was served to remedy a breach of the above Act during the year. This was complied with.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Ten houses have been dealt with to disinfest from bed bugs. The whole of these are privately owned. Disinfestation is carried out by the local authority. Supervision is carried out by the Council's officials to prevent infestation of the Council's houses by visiting the prospective tenants. It has not been necessary to disinfest any such household effects during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

There are 225 cowkeepers and dairymen in the district. Fifteen of these are producing tuberculin-tested milk and sixty-nine are producing accredited milk.

MEAT.

All meat supplied to butchers in the district is slaughtered outside the district and inspected at the place of slaughter.

Four hundred and fifty-five pounds of beef was found on inspection to be unwholesome and unfit for human consumption and destroyed.

The following food was found to be unsound and unfit for human consumption. That which was found to be fit for manufacture or animal feeding was so disposed of.

Margarine.....	66	lbs.
Bacon.....	44	"
Pearl barley.....	55	"
Corned beef.....	174	"
Corned mutton.....	24	"
Condensed milk.....	167	"
Rice.....	200	"